

- (iv) enriching the curriculum so that it goes beyond textbooks;
- (v) making examinations more flexible and integrating them with class-room life.

NCERT has brought out new syllabi for all stages of school education in consonance with NCF-2005 and has initiated the process of development of new textbooks in a phased manner.

NCF recognized the need for greater choice to students choose courses. At the senior secondary level, CBSE provides a lot of freedom to students to choose their subjects.

Closure of Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandirs

†2752. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Minister has given any statement in the press to close all Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandirs spread throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the said statement and by when these educational institutions are likely to be closed, if they are going to be closed;
- (c) the reasons to be given for closure of these institutions; and
- (d) the number of Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandirs functioning actually in the country, at present and the students undergoing study in them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Minister of Human Resource Development spoke about the need for homogeneity in the educational standard across the country in the context of the report of a Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), on Textbooks and Parallel Textbooks Taught in Schools Outside the Government System'.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Information regarding the number of Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandirs in the country is not centrally maintained by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. As reported by Central Board of Secondary

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Education (CBSE), there are 06 Schools affiliated with CBSE with the title name 'Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir'. Further another 36 schools are affiliated with the Board with the title name 'Saraswati Shishu Mandir', 'Saraswati Vidya Mandir', and 'Saraswati Bal Mandir'. 5650 students of class X and 2374 students of class XII were registered for Board examinations - 2006 from these schools.

Upgradation of Urdu Medium Schools

2753. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to upgrade the knowledge and teaching skills of Urdu Medium School teachers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to equip them with the changing trends in education and to impart them modern techniques; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Upgradation of knowledge and teaching skills is a continuous process. Towards this end National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been organizing Teacher Training Programmes. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganization of Teacher Education exists under which Central Government provides financial assistance to States for setting up of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), strengthening of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) etc. The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore conducts two kinds of training in respect of Urdu through its two Regional Language Centres (Urdu Teaching and Research Centre, Lucknow and Solan) and also through its Northern Regional Language Centres, Patiala. The first training programme is for non-native teachers to learn Urdu to use it for students in a bilingual/multilingual class room and second' training programme is for teachers of Urdu from different States.